



Crumb Donors Story Time

Editor's moment

Hello everyone. This is Jared. I hope the month of January in this new year has been good. We want to thank you all for your support throughout 2007 and hope you will continue to support us in 2008. Jimmy, my dad, is going to share our editor's moment with you this month. December was an interesting month for our family so he will be sharing some news with all of you. Thank you again for your support. You are making a major difference. YO BUDDY!!!

December 2007

On December 12, 2007, we celebrated the life of my dad, James Edward Munson in Pana, Illinois. He passed away a couple days earlier. He and my mom, Opal, who passed away 2 years ago were among our very first crumb donors. Also in December, my father-in-law, went through an emergency surgery for cancer and he is doing well today. But I want to thank the crumb donors for the many emails, cards, calls and memorial donations to Crumb Donors which you made in my dad's behave and the prayers you offered for my father in law. Crumb donors support us not only with funding but also with prayer and encouragement. Thank you all for being so generous. YO BUDDY!

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUCEMENT

Kathy & I also want to proudly announce to our crumb donors that our son, Jared Munson, got engaged on Christmas Eve. Jenny Klee, daughter of Kirk & Michelle Klee of Arkansas, said yes to Jared's popping of the big question. Jared & Jenny met at Graceland University. No date is set yet for the wedding as they both still have college responsibilities. But we are all excited here. You can send Jared & Jenny a congratulation email at little70@comcast.net or jklee@graceland.edu. This is a giant YO BUDDY!!!!

Peace Chapel of Memphis makes 5 year commitment

We value every crumb donor and need the support of each one. One of the great joys which happened during December was that the Peace Chapel Congregation in Memphis, Tennessee, made a commitment to be a partner of the Chattanooga Urban Ministries for the next five years. YO BUDDY for Memphis. Without our crumb donors, our ministries could not survive and could not continue to grow weekly. We are grateful to Memphis for being bold and generous enough to promise their support for the next five years. We have individuals, families, bible study groups, small groups, congregations, small businesses and others from all over who keep us operating each month with their generous giving. We are so grateful to everyone. However, we never know month to month what our donations will be for sure. Peace Chapel is a great blessing to this ministry with their promise of support for the next five years. YO BUDDY for Peace Chapel & all our wonderful crumb donors.

Chattanooga Urban
Ministries Crumb
Donors Newsletter

January 2008 Edition

Thank YOU

Special Notes:

- ☺ Two baptisms happened in Chattanooga so far in 2008 and more are planned.
- ☺ Brian Ober and Ben Duvall of Chicago area come to Chattanooga to do cell group church planting training on February.
- ☺ Mike Stacy & Buford & Diane Wilson serves as special guests in January

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Where do I send my crumb donor donation?

Just about every month, someone asks the above question. The answer is send checks, money orders, and special gifts to the following address:

**Crumb Donors
C/o Steve Koehler
155 Richland Court
Gallatin, TN 37066-3018**

Pictures of Sharing Christ's Peace in Chattanooga, Cleveland & Ooltewah



Message from pastor Keith Dutton

Hello Crumb Donors! This is Pastor Keith from the Chattanooga Urban Ministries Center located in East Chattanooga. I know it has been a while since you heard from us so I wanted to tell you a little bit about the things that have happened this holiday season at the Urban Ministries Center in Chattanooga. We started off the holiday season with our thanksgiving celebration service and Apostle Linda Booth came to share with us. In this service we were well fed with the help of our volunteer cooks, go vols., and the food was provided by generous contributions from many members, parents, participants and friends.

Because of all our crumb donors, your crumbs made it possible for our ever growing church family to enjoy so many different things and events. At this Thanksgiving event, we were blessed not only with great food that day but also with baptisms, ordinations and confirmations. More than 140 people attended this celebration and I hope you can tell the difference your crumbs continues to make here. Yo Buddy for each of you being so generous.

Then in December, our Christmas season was successful and once again it was due to not only the hard work of our team here but also because of the generous giving of you our crumb donors. Our Christmas season included plays being done by our kids, Christmas tree decorating, cupcake decorating, gift wrapping and gift giving. Through all the hustle and bustle we had our share of struggles but the gifts and love from our crumb donors enabled us to put gas in our van to get our kids to the many events during the holiday season, to share together in worship and fun, to provide gifts for those who didn't have any and do many other things. Our Christmas service included a kids play, a solo from one of our new teenagers, prayers from our veterans and the joy of seeing some who we haven't seen in a while, and we had over 130 people come and share with us on our Christmas worship.

Then here in January, we have already had a busy year. The last Sunday of this month was our monthly celebration where a few of our church plants participants and some of our Center's participants gathered together for a day of worship, food, fellowship and fun. We got to celebrate the 2008 kick-off with a outdoor cook-out organized by Craig & Brenda Lenfestey. We celebrated with a baby blessing, two baptisms and confirmations, and a healing service. Newly ordained Priest Justin Delong did his first baptism during this service. More than 120 people shared in this service. As the result of this baptismal service, two more people have committed to be baptized next Sunday...YO BUDDY !!!

In addition to the many things which took place at "The Center", church planter Craig Hidy moved church plant ministries further along in Cleveland and Ooltewah. Craig and I are blessed not only by the ministry of our crumb donors and all the people involved in this ministry, but we are blessed by a team of dedicated staff and volunteers!

We look forward into the new year with all the excitement it will hold, and we will be embarking on some new journeys by moving the church and the gospel into new areas and continue to grow in our current places. I am excited to serve on this team. As we begin a new year of church planting and church growth ministry here in the Chattanooga area, we will need your crumbs just as much as ever. Thank you for your support in 2007 and thanks in advance for your generous caring and support in 2008.

Thank you, and God Bless,

Pastor Keith

Jesus - A Woodpecker –and a major decision—by Jimmy Munson

If you read our front page, you could see how December was an unique month for the Munson family. However, what is not mentioned there is our family was offered a new career position in December. We were not looking for a career change as I love working for the Community of Christ (most of the time-haha) and Kathy love being an educator. However, almost out of the blue this opportunity came and it was an offer too good to refuse. This met, shortly after dealing with my dad's death and Kathy's dad cancer surgery, we was thrown into making a major decision about careers. We began the process of praying, researching, discussing, seeking advise from trusted friends, family and co-workers.

We set a date to make our final decision. Our hearts kept telling us to stay doing what we love to do but our heads kept telling us to be smart for once and go for a more prosperous lifestyle. During this process of the past few weeks, we have experienced many adventures along our decision making journey. The day before our scheduled final decision, I was feel pretty certain about what way I wanted to go with the decision. I got up that morning feeling a little nervous and I went to our bedroom window and got a surprise.

For months, every morning when I get up a woodpecker greets me with his pecking as he peck away on a tree right outside our room. We named him Petey the Woodpecker. I always looked forward to my few minutes of watching Petey peck away. Petey the woodpecker stays on his mission every day no matter what the weather is...rain or shine. Petey is always there doing his mission of pecking away at the old tree. No matter what happens around him, my friend the woodpecker never loses focus. The barking of dogs, the shouts of children, squirrels jumping from one branch to the other, garbage trucks, slamming of doors, etc. does not take Petey off his task. Every morning for months, Petey the woodpecker inspired me to keep my God-given focus and to not let anything take me off task. BUT on this one particular morning when I was going to be sharing in a major life decision and I needed the reassurance of Petey the woodpecker always being there on task.....Petey was no where to be found. I opened my window to listen and see if I could spot him somewhere else, but no luck. I ran out on my deck to see if I could find my dependable woodpecker doing his mission...but there was no Petey. I was frustrated. I said out loud, "thanks a lot Petey you old peckerwood. This is the one day when I needed you and you are no where to be found."

I walked back into the house from the deck feeling alone and blue and more unsure of the choice I was about to make. Then it happened, I found God's comforting spirit. I am not a guy who seeks signs because I believe you find God through hard work and deep searching. I am not a nature type guy. It is never in the quietness that I discover God but always in the busyness of the city and in the hustle and bustle of a crowd of people or in the shadow of the night when people are trying to hide their pain.

But today, I walked in off my deck frustrated that the woodpecker was not there on the day that I needed him the most, and everything suddenly went very still and grew unusually quiet for our house. So quiet I noticed the stillness. I walked back out on the deck and there was Petey back on task pecking away again and then here came Jesus quieting speaking to my soul. In that instance I became aware of how important it was for Kathy and I to stay on mission and stay pecking away at reaching the lost and equipping them for a new journey of a Jesus lifestyle instead of the street lifestyle. In that moment, God confirmed to me that our ongoing pecking of trying to serve our God could not stop because on the day we stop, it would be the day when someone would need us the most and our absence would leave them alone and afraid. In other words, through the sense of lostness I felt for a few minutes that morning when my reliable friend the woodpecker was not on hand, was the same lostness that God's seeking children feels when his disciples make a choice not to stay focus and not to stay steady in our called out mission. It was part of our confirming experience that staying employed as a appointee family for the Community of Christ was still part of our mission. So through the woodpecker and Jesus, Kathy and I found some needed reassurance to continue pecking for the lost and for those who are seeking to find their own journey with the Christ. For those of you who read this who wonders if your daily efforts to stay on mission for Jesus is worthwhile.....I want to share with you that according to Petey the woodpecker the most important thing we can do is to stay on mission and do not get moved off our focus even for a day because the call to serve remains. Your continual efforts of attempting to be faithful to God's call is more important than we know.

Our Victory Lies in our Invitation....Each one reaches oneJared Munson!!!

This past Sunday, we shared in our first 2 baptisms for 2008. Next Sunday, we are planning on sharing in at least two more baptisms. These baptisms come as the results of someone simply inviting someone else to church. One of our young church members invited Yolanda to come to the center. She came and after a while she got baptized. She invited her brother and he came and later got baptized. They invited their dad and he began coming and later got baptized. The dad then invited his neighbor James to come to church and James came and got baptized last Sunday. **Our Victory lies in our invitation. Each One reaches one.**

A young boy named Roemel invited his neighbor to come to church with him. She comes and later get baptized. She invites her brothers to come and they come and later get baptized. They invite their young cousin to come and he comes and later get baptizes. He invites his neighbor to come and he comes and got baptized last Sunday. **Our Victory lies in our Invitation. Each one reaches one.**

A few weeks ago, a young adult mother gets invited to the center by another mother and she comes. This mother then invites her son and he comes. The son then goes home and invites his teenage sister and she comes. Now this brother and sister are scheduled to be baptized probably this coming Sunday. The sister has invited a neighborhood friend and she came for the first time last Sunday. **Our Victory lies in our Invitation. Each one reaches one.**

A few days ago, a teenage girl is playing basketball outside of the center when one of our teenage leaders, LaVaughia, goes out and invites her to come into the center for a church activity, she comes. This new teenage girl go home and invites her brother to come to church the very next day and he comes. He goes home and tell his neighbor about church and invites his neighbor to come. This neighbor comes to the center with his dog and just walks around the center when I go outside and invite the boy to church. The boy takes his dog home and on his way back to church invites two of his friends and they come to church. **Our victory lies in our invitation. Each One Reaches One!.**

This is still January and many of these events just happened in 2008. We share these things with our crumb donors so you know that you are making a difference and just about daily God adds to our opportunity to grow the church. So often people wants to ask us to come and teach classes on how to do missionary work or how to plant churches or how to grow a church. Folks will read books after books on church growth. We will spend hours sitting in workshops and attending classes on reaching out. We will go through training after training. We will check out website after website. We will spend so much time on trying to learn why our congregations are not growing but we will not do the one and maybe the only thing which will ever help our church grow. We will do anything but the one thing it takes to begin to make disciples. The one thing is simply to INVITE others to come to church and simply tell them why coming to church with you will be such a great time.

I have grown up hearing my dad and other successful missionaries trying to witness to all of us that it is not more training, more workshops, more planning meetings, or more missionary tool kits which will win others for Jesus Christ. But it is always just one thing and it is for one of us who has been found to go and invite one more to come and follow us to church. Every Sunday we sing here in Chattanooga..."why not come with ME to my Father's house. It is a big big house with room for everyone.."

Whether we are 8 , 18, 28, 48 or 88 years old, the best way to begin to make a disciple and to grow the church is for us to invite someone to come and go with us to church. Every week at the center and at our church plants, new people joins us. They do not join us because we are the best church in town or because we have discovered some great marketing tool or because we have read the right books.....they join us because someone, usually one of the Chattanooga Kids, invites someone to come and go with them to church.

This growing ministry is exciting with all it ups and downs because each week new people comes to join with us. They come because we know that **"our victory lies in our invitation" and that "each one reaches one."**

Crumb donors thank you for your support each month. You are heroes of the gospel to me. I need you to do me a favor....go and invite someone to come to church with you this month and catch this vision!!!

ATTENTION ALL CRUMB DONORS....As we begin this new year , we want to make sure we have each crumb donor's address and information correct. So could you please just take a moment and send us the following information via email at **munson3@comcast.net** or send it with your next crumb donation to Steve Koehler (address found on page 2). Please give us the following information:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

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- **We also need your help with getting some current addresses updated**
- **Our Crumb Donor Treasurer writes "If anyone knows of current addresses for the people listed below, please send them back to us asap!" Yo u can send then via email to the email address above or give Brother Steve a call at 615-451-4646. Here are the name of people who addresses, we need**

Gladys Berridge
Hugh & Tonya Ferguson
Larry & Bonnie Jannings
David W. Reed
Diane Sosebee
Robert Watford

Ronald and Diane Clark
Patricia and Charles Lindstrom
Ohio Valley Autos (Phillip Carter)
Thomas & Bonnie Scherer
Peggy Sue Toledo
Elizabeth and Larry Yoder

Norma Cook (Harrison, MI)
Mary Hagerty
Christine Porter
M.A. Smith
Joses Vickery

Jared Munson
6309 Celtic Drive
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